

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 184
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate former Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien upon Roane State Community College naming its new humanities building in her honor.

WHEREAS, throughout the course of Tennessee history, few have made such a profound impact on Tennessee politics as former Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien, who blessed us with her presence at the State Capitol for over forty years; and

WHEREAS, the sister of former Governor Frank Goad Clement, Miss Anna Belle comes from the most famous family in the history of Tennessee Democratic politics; and

WHEREAS, she began her exemplary political career as a campaign operative when her brother, Frank Clement successfully ran for Governor in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, she was appointed as an assistant to Commissioner of Agriculture Buford Ellington in the Clement Administration; and

WHEREAS, she later served in Governor Buford Ellington's administration as his executive assistant; and

WHEREAS, Miss Anna Belle made Tennessee history when she was appointed to be her brother's administrative assistant during his second term, making her the first female chief of staff to the Governor; and

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WHEREAS, she further made history by winning her election to the Tennessee State Senate in 1976, being only the second woman in state history to be elected to the state senate; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Democratic Caucus called upon Miss Anna Belle to run for Governor in 1982, and she became an inspiration for many women to enter public service; and

WHEREAS, during her meritorious tenure in the Senate, Miss Anna Belle served as chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Joint Oversight Committee on Education, where she helped direct the most extensive and powerful reform of classroom education in this state's history; and

WHEREAS, because of her stalwart support of higher education, Roane State Community College is honoring Senator O'Brien by naming its new humanities building in her honor; and

WHEREAS, the O'Brien Humanities Building at Roane State Community College became a reality as a result of Senator Anna Belle's unflagging commitment to higher education; and

WHEREAS, the only institution of higher education in her district, Senator O'Brien has lent her considerable talents and energies to several major projects at Roane State; and

WHEREAS, Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien is being honored for the positive and lasting impact she has had on Roane State Community College; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly honors this remarkable woman for her unrelenting dedication to higher education and to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate former Senator Anna Belle Clement O'Brien upon Roane State Community College naming its new humanities building in her honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.